

Kostolac power plant and the Nikola Tesla power plant, which provides half of the nation's electricity, from the waters of the overflooded Sava River.

Furthermore, an estimated 100,000 landmines remaining from the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s have been lost or dislodged due to landslides, causing great concern for public safety.

In response, the United States Government has provided assistance through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to the Serbian Red Cross, as well as from the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Additionally, U.S. Embassy funds have been used to purchase sandbags and other material assistance, with Embassy volunteers dedicating their time to filling hundreds of sandbags in suburbs threatened by Sava River flooding. The United States Government has further provided OFDA assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as boats, food, and supplies through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Republic of Serbia share an increasing commitment to core democratic values, reconciliation, and European integration. The United States expresses deep sympathy to all those affected by the flooding in the Western Balkans for the terrible loss of life and massive destruction, as well as a continued desire to provide essential assistance along with that of other nations and organizations to help their countries recover from this tragedy.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION: TO MAKE PERMANENT THE STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my bill to make the state and local sales tax deduction permanent. Simply put this is a matter of fairness. The families of Tennessee shouldn't pay more in federal taxes because our state chooses to have a sales tax instead of an income tax. This is just not equitable. By making this deduction permanent we can bring certainty to families in Tennessee, bring certainty to the tax code, and give families the time they need to plan their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, over 556,000 Tennessee filers claimed the deduction for state and local sales tax and reduced their taxable income by \$1.23 billion. These families deserve fair treatment and certainty in the tax code.

My legislation will give these families the fair treatment they deserve, by making the state and local sales tax deductions a permanent part of the federal tax code.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support me in passing my legislation to make permanent the state and local sales tax deductions in order to ensure American families are treated fairly by the tax code.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT KEININGHAM

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired United States Marine Corps Corporal and United States Air Force (USAF) Master Sergeant Jack Keiningham who passed away on September 30, 2007.

Master Sergeant Keiningham knew from an early age that he wanted to join the military and serve our country. On July 2, 1942, he enlisted and served in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Division, where he was quickly promoted to the rank of Corporal.

Master Sergeant Keiningham courageously fought and served our nation during World War II, where he was wounded in the Battle of Saipan. During his service, he was highly awarded and decorated with the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Navy Presidential Unit Citation with Two Stars, Marine Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Marine Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Stars, and the Marine WWII Victory Medal for his bravery in the call of duty.

After an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps due to the injuries he received during the Battle of Saipan, he enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) where he earned the rank of Technical Sergeant. While in the Air Force, he was awarded the USAF Outstanding Unit Ribbon, two USAF Good Conduct Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal, the USAF Longevity Service Ribbon with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and the USAF Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

After retiring from active duty, he continued his service in the Air Force Reserve as a Technical Sergeant and retired with the rank of Master Sergeant. On September 30, 2007, Master Sergeant Jack Keiningham was laid to rest. He will forever be remembered as an American hero who dedicated his life in service to our country.

America thanks him and his family for their service and sacrifice for our country.

As I close, I ask everyone to continue praying for our country during these difficult times and for our military men and women who protect us from external threats and our first responders who protect us from internal threats right here at home.

God bless our military men and women, and God bless the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would have voted on the following votes had I been in attendance, on H.R. 4660, Commerce Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.

Yes—Amendment 738 by Rep. James Moran (A049) to strike sections 528 and 529 which prohibit the use of funds to be used to transfer or release any detainee who is or was

held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba or construct any facility in the U.S. to house any detainee held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Roll No. 254
No—Amendment 742 by Rep. Blackburn (A053) to reduce by 1 percent each amount made available by the bill, except funding for the FBI, fees and expenses for witnesses, public safety officer benefits, and the US Trustee System Fund. Roll No. 255

No—Amendment 744 by Rep. Blackburn (A055) to prohibit the use of funds for operation, renovation, or construction at Thomson Correctional Facility in Illinois. Roll No. 256

Yes—Amendment 745 by Rep. Bonamici (A056) to prohibit the use of funds to prevent a State from implementing its own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of industrial hemp, as defined in section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Roll No. 257

Yes—Amendment 748 by Rep. Rohrabacher (A059) to prohibit the use of funds to prevent certain States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana. Roll No. 258

No—Amendment 750 by Rep. George Holding (A061) to prohibit the use of funds to transfer or temporarily assign employees to the Office of the Pardon Attorney for the purpose of screening clemency applications. Roll No. 259

Yes—Amendment 754 by Rep. Massie (A065) to prohibit the use of funds in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by the Department of Justice of the Drug Enforcement Administration. Roll No. 260

No—Amendment 756 by Rep. Southerland (A067) to prohibit the use of funds to develop, approve, or implement a new limited access privilege program that are not already developed, approved, or implemented for any fishery under the jurisdiction of the South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, New England, or Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Roll No. 261

Yes—Amendment 759 by Ellison (A070) to prohibit use of funds to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition outlined in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act". Roll No. 262

Yes—Amendment 763 by Grayson (A074) to prohibit the use of funds to compel a journalist or a reporter to testify about information or sources that the journalist or reporter states in a motion to quash the subpoena that he has obtained as a journalist or reporter and that he regards as confidential. Roll No. 263

No—Amendment 767 by Rep. Duffy (A078) to prohibit the use of funds to relinquish the responsibility of the NTIA with respect to Internet domain name system functions, including responsibility with respect to the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions. Roll No. 264

No—Amendment 768 by Rep. Garrett (A079) to prohibit the use of funds by the Department of Justice to enforce the Fair Housing Act in a manner that relies upon an allegation of liability under C.F.R. 100.500. Roll No. 265

No—Amendment 770 by Rep. Steve King (A081) to prohibit use of funds in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)). Roll No. 266

No—Amendment 771 by Rep. Meadows (A082)—At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC.—None of the funds made available by this Act ***. Roll No. 267

Yes—Motion to Recommit with Instructions.
No—Final Passage.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO HOUSING ALLIANCE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Housing Alliance as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their founding. As supporters of this organization gather to celebrate, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sacramento Housing Alliance for their incredible service to the Sacramento region.

For 25 years, the Sacramento Housing Alliance, along with its community partners, have addressed a variety of issues surrounding affordable housing, homelessness, environmental justice, regional equity, land use, hunger and community empowerment. Founded in 1989, the Sacramento Housing Alliance provides advocacy, education, leadership development and civic engagement to homeless and low-income communities throughout the Sacramento metropolitan region.

The Sacramento Housing Alliance has achieved a number of accomplishments that have benefitted thousands of individuals. In 2001, their efforts led to Sacramento County's adoption of the landmark Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, which required affordable housing in new housing developments be made available to individuals and families with low-incomes. In 2012, the Sacramento Housing Alliance collaborated with other community-based organizations to host the region's first Homeless Employment Summit, where over 100 businesses and community partners participated and led to many homeless individuals getting jobs. Additionally, the Sacramento Housing Alliance recently launched its Affordable Housing Campaign, which addresses current housing issues, such as the dissolution of redevelopment agencies in California, the lack of affordable housing options, and rising family homelessness. Most recently, in 2013, the Sacramento Housing Alliance has taken part in the Sacramento Coalition for Shared Prosperity, which seeks a comprehensive Community Benefits Agreement for the Sacramento Entertainment and Sports Complex, to help ensure that good jobs, affordable housing, and environmentally sound developments are available for everyone in the community.

Mr. Speaker, as they gather for their 25th anniversary and awards celebration, I am pleased to honor the Sacramento Housing Alliance and its members for their longstanding commitment and service to the entire Sacramento region. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing them continued success in creating positive, lasting change throughout the Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING WALNUT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL LADY TIGERS BASKETBALL

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Walnut Grove High School Lady Tigers Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 1 Girls State Championship.

The Lady Tigers clinched back-to-back state championships after defeating North Andrew with an impressive final score of 84–49. Members of the team include Heather Harman, Lexi Harman, Madisyn Freeze, Karsyn Hejna, Miranda Allison, Megan Shuler, Audree Crain, Ellen Hayter, Raylie Hejna, Shelby Harman, Carrigan Comstock, Mikayla Louderbaugh, and Katelynn Garoutte.

Through their hard work and discipline on and off the court, the Lady Tigers developed into a truly great championship team. The Lady Tigers ended the season 28–4.

I also want to commend Head Coach Rory Henry for a job well-done on developing such a strong basketball program.

I am proud to recognize the school and the players on their victory, and applaud the hard work that has brought them so much success. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Walnut Grove Lady Tigers as they celebrate their Class 1 Girls State Championship.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALEX AND MARITZA ALVAREZ AND OLGA A. VALDEZ

HON. PETE P. GALLEGO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the second anniversary of the passing of three constituents of the 23rd District of Texas who died in a tragic accident on May 26, 2012—Alex Alvarez, his wife, Maritza Alvarez and her mother, Olga A. Valdez. I rise today to speak in their honor.

I honor their lives. Like all of us, they sought a better life. They worked hard to achieve success. Like many of us, they were parents who longed to see their son and grandson graduate from high school, go off to college, get married, and generally succeed at life.

Unfortunately, they got none of the above. Their deaths were caused by a person who was texting and driving. Poor judgment caused a terrible tragedy. The lone survivor of this horrific car accident was Alex and Maritza's young son, Alex Jr.

Alex and Maritza were hard workers. Alex was a native son of the border, having been born in Eagle Pass, Texas. He worked in the IT department of the Fort Duncan Regional Medical Center.

Maritza was also a native daughter of the border region. She was born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, the sister city to Eagle Pass. She worked in Eagle Pass as a dental assistant.

Olga A. Valdez was born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. She was a devoted grandmother, mother, and sister.

Three lives tragically cut short. One young boy left to face life alone without his parents. One moment of poor judgment by an inattentive third party—nothing, absolutely nothing in that text could've been worth the cost of three lives not yet fully lived.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the lives of Alex and Maritza Alvarez, to commend the courage of a young boy, Alex Alvarez Jr., who still I'm sure struggles to make sense of the loss he has suffered, and urge the residents of the 23rd District of Texas and our entire Nation not to text and drive.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 30, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. The Orchestra was originally formed in 1994 as a collaborative arrangement between the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Annandale Campus and the Reunion Music Society. Led by award-winning Music Director Christopher Johnston since 1996, the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra has performed a wide range of music embracing different cultures and heritages and is the "Orchestra-in-Residence" at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center on the Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus.

Over the years, the orchestra has grown in size, repertoire, and prominence in the greater Northern Virginia community. The Orchestra is composed of members of the community, as well as NOVA students for whom the ensemble is a laboratory for the orchestral repertoire. The Orchestra performs a wide variety of music from around the world, demonstrating its versatility and its goals of presenting compositions of little-known composers and offering programs of seldom-heard music representing a range of cultures.

Throughout its two decade history, the orchestra has performed on and off campus, premiered numerous works, created scholarships, provided opportunities for young soloists, and generated unique multi-cultural events designed to reach diverse audiences. It is most unusual for a community college to maintain a full symphony orchestra, and the orchestra's quality and enduring place in the Northern Virginia community are now widely recognized.

At the orchestra's anniversary concert this year, the symphony orchestra will perform a concert entitled "Scotland and the Sea." Included in the program is the debut of a symphonic work by students of the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary and in thanking the musicians, volunteers and supporters for their efforts to preserve and enrich the music and culture of Northern Virginia.